

REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action of December 11, 2007. Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

No claims stand rejected on art and are understood to contain allowable subject matter once the 35 U.S.C. § 112 issues are resolved.

The Present Amendment

Claim 1 has been represented as an apparatus claim to resolve the Examiner's objection that claim 1 calls for a method in the preamble and apparatus in the body. Other minor adjustments to the text have been added to make a more forceful apparatus presentation of the previously claimed subject matter.

New claim 17 is the same as original claim 1, but presented in method format. The tense of the verbs has been adjusted to set forth method steps more forcefully.

Dependent claims 2-14 have been amended to depend from claim 17 and to set forth the method steps more actively.

Because there is no outstanding rejection on art against claim 1 and apparatus claim 1 and method claim 17 are of substantially the same scope as original claim 1, it is submitted that claims 1-14, 17 and 18 are now in condition for allowance.

New claim 19 has been presented to set forth the apparatus in a different manner.

New claim 21 has been presented to set forth the method steps in a manner which is more independent of the apparatus on which they are performed.

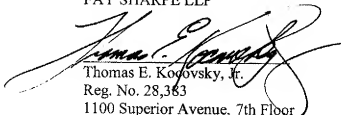
CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is submitted that all claims distinguish patentably over the references of record and meet all statutory requirements. An early allowance of all claims is requested.

In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, he is requested to telephone Thomas Kocovsky at (216) 861-5582.

Respectfully submitted,

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